

The Spanish-American War

1898

Spain and Cuba

Cuba, an island only **90 miles** from the coast of Florida, was one of the last of Spain's colonial possessions in Latin America. Cubans were heavily taxed and **treated harshly under Spanish rule**. In 1894, **Cubans rebelled** against Spain to obtain their independence. The Spanish army sent to Cuba used **brutal force to put down the rebellion**. The American public was shocked at this treatment and pressured the President and Congress to step in. **Several factors** finally led the U.S. to go to war with Spain.

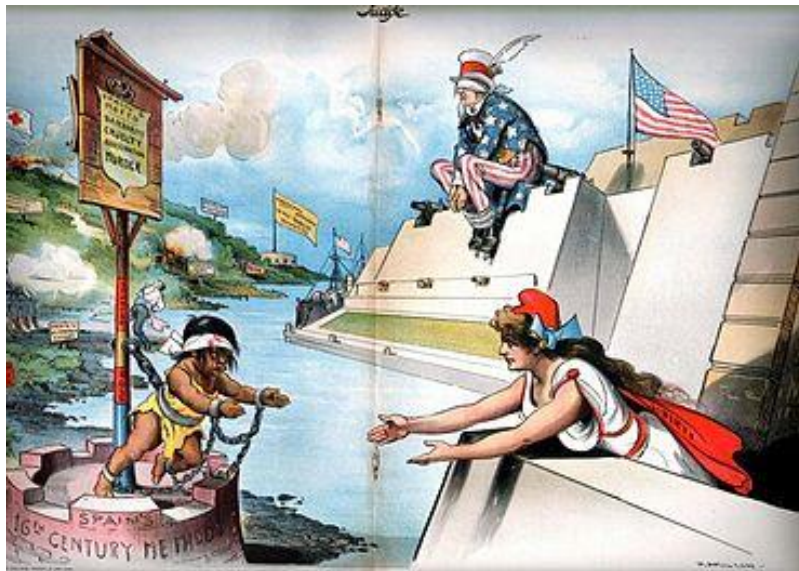
Geography: The Big Picture



Causes of the Spanish-American War

A. Humanitarian Concerns:

Many Americans felt they had a **moral obligation** to help the Cuban people in their struggle for independence from Spain.

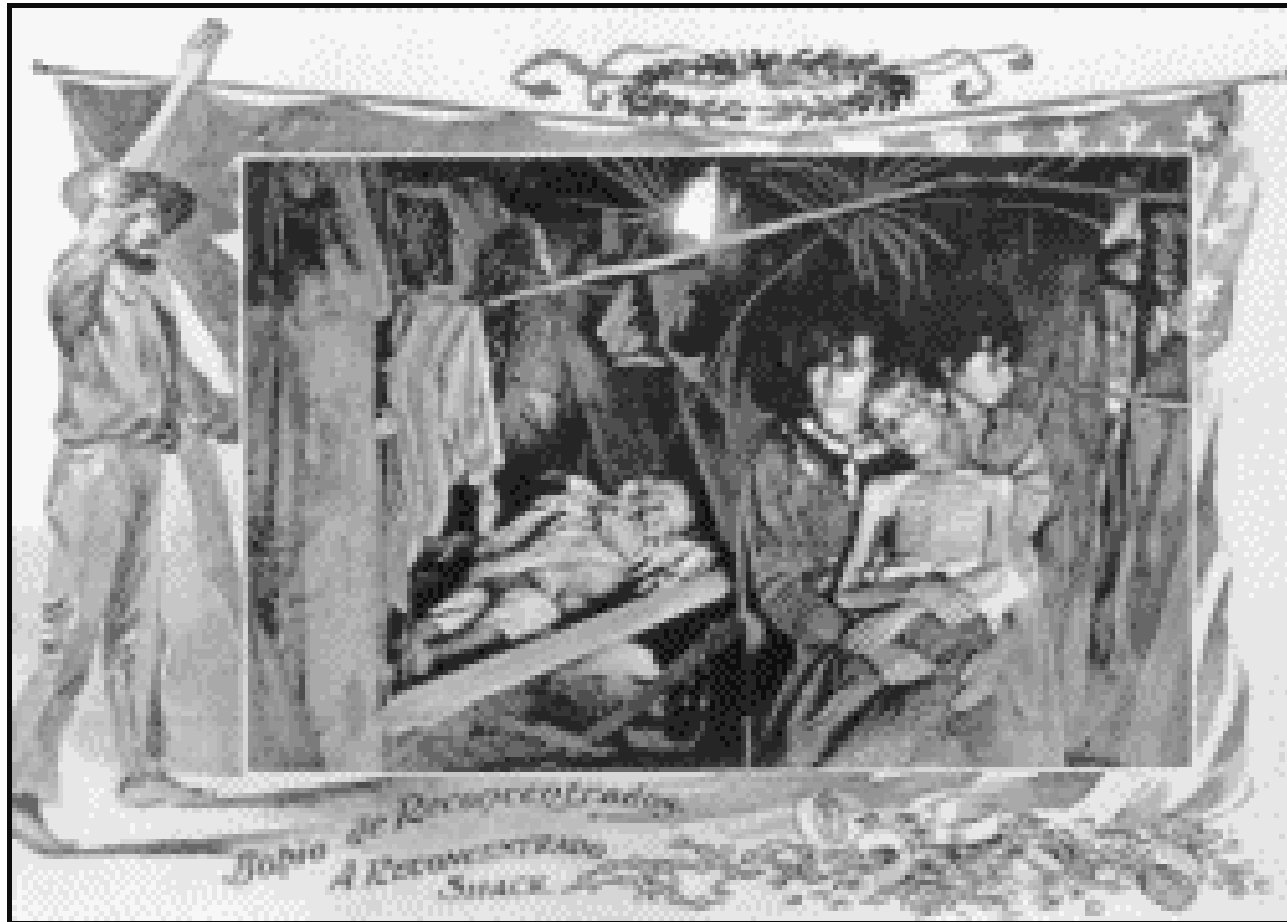


GENERAL WEYLER "THE BUTCHER"

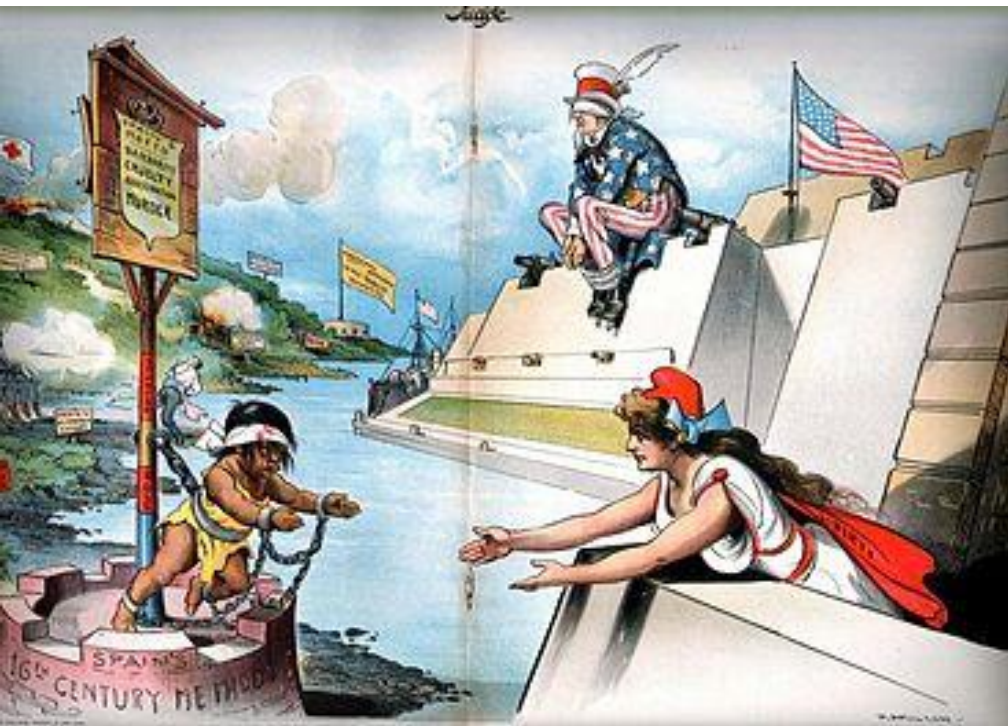


- In 1896, the Spanish sent "The Butcher," to Cuba
- To prevent the insurrection
 - Weyler built concentration camps where he imprisoned a large portion of the population
- Under the harsh and unsanitary conditions in the concentration camps,
 - Cuban prisoners died rapidly, especially from disease

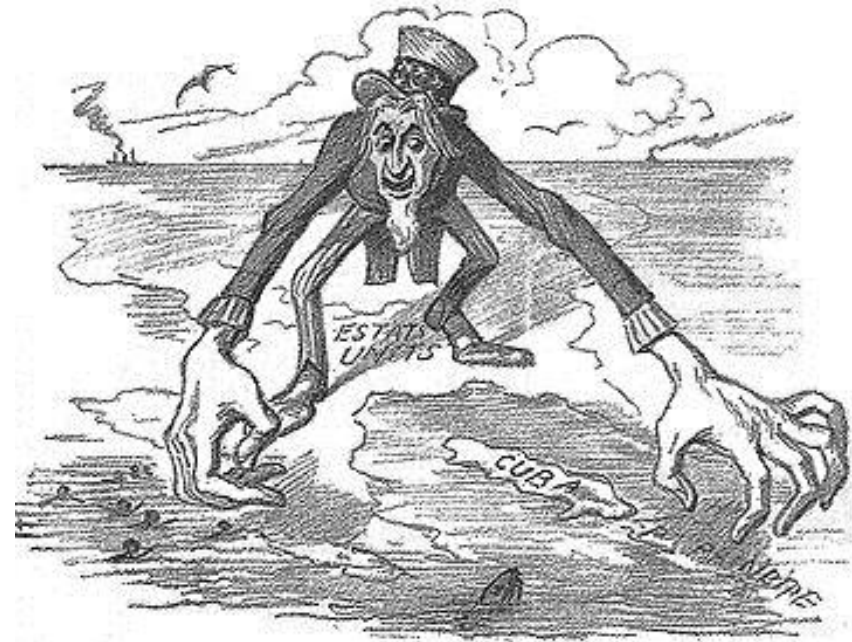
Spanish Re-concentration Policy



Perspectives



LA FATLERA DEL ONCLE SAM (per M. Motini).



Guardarse l' isla perque no 's perdi.

Causes:

B. Yellow Journalism.

Newspapers sensationalized news events to sell more copies. In the 1890s, the New York World and the New York Journal distorted the news from Cuba with exaggerated stories of atrocities.



Yellow Journalism

MAINE **NEW YORK JOURNAL** **MAINE**
EXTRA No. 9 **EXTRA No. 9**
 NEW YORK, WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 1898. **PRICE ONE CENT.**

CRISIS IS AT HAND 253 KNOWN TO BE LOST

CABINET IN SESSION; GROWING BELIEF IN SPANISH TREACHERY.

DE LOME, IN PANIC, FLEES

Maine Destroyed by an Outside Attack, Naval Officers Believe.

Censored Dispatches from Havana Say a Shot Was Heard Before the Ship's Magazines Blew Up.



EXTRA NIGHT EXTRA.

M'KINLEY SUSPICIOUS OF SPANISH PLOTS

ENGLAND BELIEVES IT FOUL PLAY.

GENERS SUPPRESSING NEWS.

RICHO AT SINGERS.

THESE SAW THE TRAGEDY.



Position of the Maine Today in Havana Harbor.

MAINE DESTROYED BY AN OUTSIDE ATTACK, NAVAL OFFICERS BELIEVE.

CENSORED DISPATCHES FROM HAVANA SAY A SHOT WAS HEARD BEFORE THE SHIP'S MAGAZINES BLEW UP.

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GENERS SUPPRESSING NEWS.

RICHO AT SINGERS.

THESE SAW THE TRAGEDY.

\$50,000 REWARD.—WHO DESTROYED THE MAINE?—\$50,000 REWARD.

NEW YORK JOURNAL AND ADVERTISER

DESTRUCTION OF THE WAR SHIP MAINE WAS THE WORK OF AN ENEMY.

\$50,000!

\$50,000 REWARD!

For the Detection of the Perpetrator of the Maine Outrage!

Assistant Secretary Roosevelt Convinced the Explosion of the War Ship Was Not an Accident.

The Journal Offers \$50,000 Reward for the Conviction of the Criminals Who Sent 253 American Sailors to Their Death, Naval Officers Unanimous That the Ship Was Destroyed on Purpose.

\$50,000!

\$50,000 REWARD!

For the Detection of the Perpetrator of the Maine Outrage!



NAVAL OFFICERS THINK THE MAINE WAS DESTROYED BY A SPANISH MINE.

HIDDEN MAINE OR A SUNKEN TORPEDO BELIEVED TO HAVE BEEN THE WEAPON USED AGAINST THE AMERICAN MERRY-WAR—OFFICERS AND MEN TELL THRILLING STORIES OF BEING BLOWN INTO THE AIR AMID A MASS OF SHATTERED STEEL AND EXPLODING SHELLS—SURVIVORS BROUGHT TO KEY WEST SCOUT THE TELL OF ACCIDENT'S SPANISH OFFICERS PRO-

Yellow Journalism

SPORTING SPECIAL. AN AMERICAN PAPER FOR THE AMERICAN PEOPLE. NEW YORK JOURNAL. BASEBALL

THE JOURNAL. NEW YORK, THURSDAY, MAY 12, 1900. PRICE ONE CENT.

SPANISH SHIPS ON OUR COAST! DIED IN FOLDS OF OLD GLORY!

Mysterious Warships Seen by Incoming Vessels May Be Privateers.

Bagley and His Men to Be Revenged by the Machias and Wilmington.

FIRST DEAD OF THE WAR.
 ENGLISH WORTHY BAGLEY.
 OLIVER J. VARYVADEE.
 FOREMAN J. DENEGRE.
 COOK E. S. FURRELL.
 FOREMAN S. B. MEER.
 The "Wounded."
 LIND J. B. BARNARD.
 WILSON PATTERSON.
 FRANK McKEOWN.

WASHINGTON, MAY 12.—THE NAVY DEPARTMENT HAS BEEN INFORMED THAT SPANISH TORPEDO BOATS AND AN AUXILIARY CRUISER ARE OFF THE NEW ENGLAND COAST. THREE INCOMING MERCHANT VESSELS ORDERED TO CONTINUE THE BOMBARDMENT AT DIFFERENT PORTS REPORT HAVING COUNTERED WARSHIPS. THEY MAY BE PRIVATEERS.

KEY WEST, MAY 12.—BAGLEY AND HIS COMPANIONS WILL BE SWIFTLY AVENGED. THE MACHIAS AND WILMINGTON WERE ORDERED TO CONTINUE THE BOMBARDMENT. IT IS NOT IMPROBABLE THAT THE FORTIFICATIONS HAVE SURRENDERED.

The American squadron, composed of nine war ships, is bombarding San Juan.

The Concord sunk a Spanish gunboat at Bolo, Philippine Islands.

George Downing, the Spanish spy, hanged himself in his cell in Washington to-day.

Four American gunboats shelled Cardenas, Cuba. Five Americans were killed and two wounded. The Winslow was disabled.

Bewey wires: "I am taking Spanish guns."

Reports that the Tecumseh was sunk in a battle off Cienfuegos are discredited by navy officials.

Two regiments of Pennsylvania troops and two of Massachusetts are ordered to Tampa.

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Causes:

C. Economic Interests.

Many leaders within the American government wanted to protect the \$50 million Americans had invested in Cuba and to prevent further interruption of U.S. trade with Cuba.

US Economic Interests in Cuba: Sugar

- Cuba's economy became even more closely linked with that of the United States than it had been earlier in the century.
- Due to a sharp drop of sugar prices that took place from early 1884, the old Cuban "sugar nobility," unable to mechanize and cut costs, began to disintegrate and lose its dominant role in the island's economy and society. This facilitated U.S. penetration of the Cuban economy. Sugar estates and mining interests passed from Spanish and Cuban to U.S. hands, and it was U.S. capital, machinery and technicians that helped to save the sugar mills that remained competitive with European beet sugar.
- Furthermore, as the dependence of Cuban sugar on the U.S. market increased, the Cuban sugar producers were more and more at the mercy of the **U.S. refiners** to whom they sold their raw sugar. **In 1894 nearly 90 percent of Cuba's exports went to the United States, which in turn provided Cuba with 38 percent of its imports.**

Causes cont.

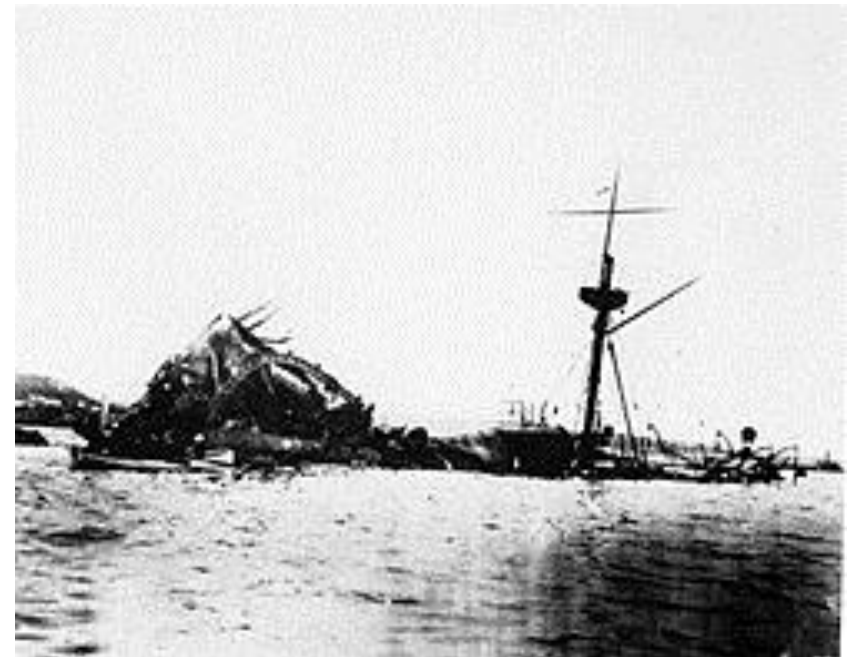
D. De Lome Letter.

The Spanish ambassador to the US, De Lome, **called president McKinley weak** in a private letter that was published in the press. This inflamed American public opinion against Spain.

Causes cont.

E. Sinking of the Maine.

The US battleship Maine was blown up in Cuba's Havana harbor. The **press blamed the explosion on Spanish sabotage**, further enraging public opinion.



Yellow Journalism



The War Strategy



Teddy Roosevelt and the Rough Riders



What can you conclude about the US military based on this picture?



Battle of Manila Bay



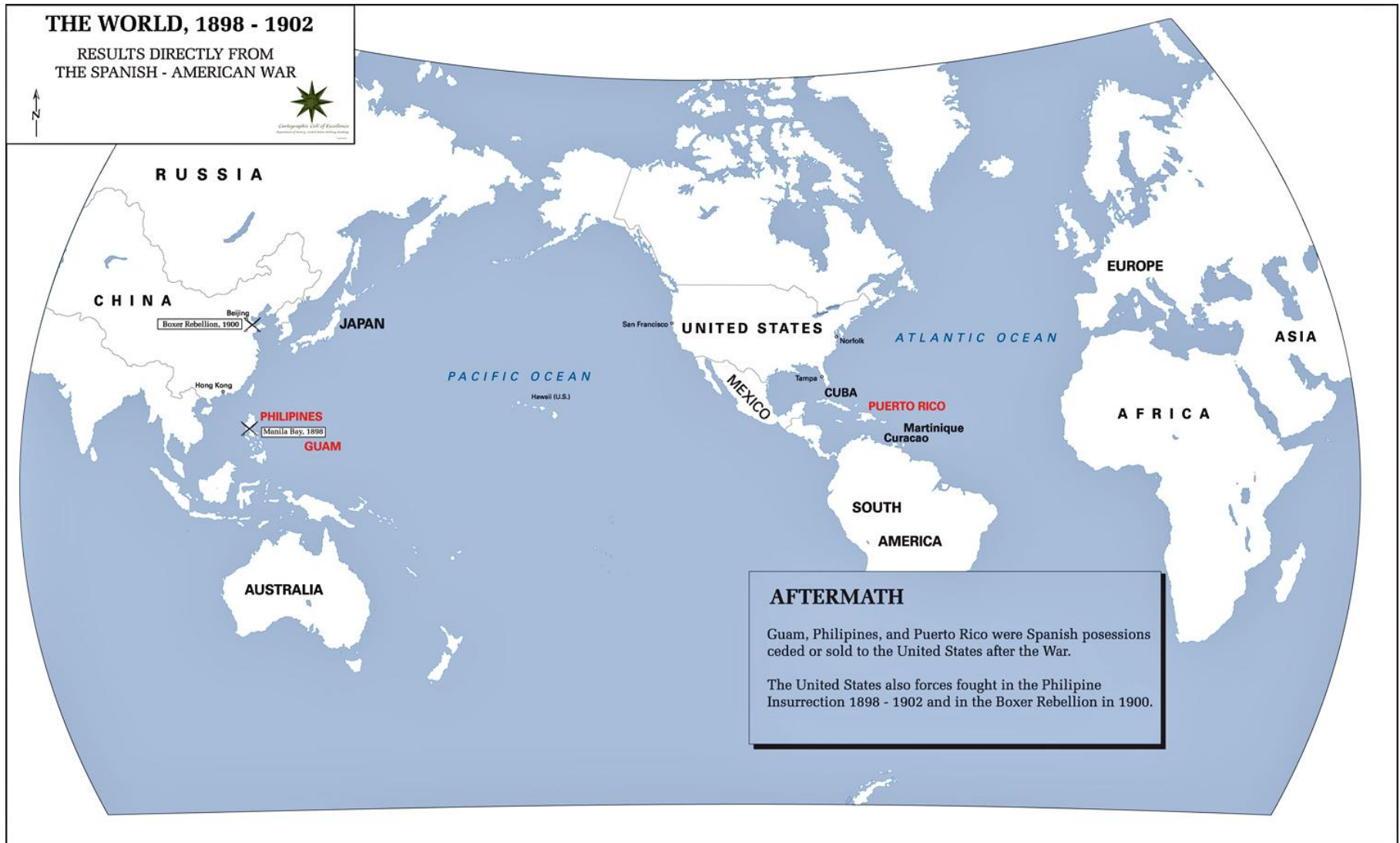
Results of the War

The Spanish-American War lasted **only four months**. US forces defeated Spain in August, 1898. In the peace treaty signed in December, **Spain agreed to set Cuba free.**

Results of the Spanish-American War

- The Spanish-American war marked a **turning point** in US foreign policy.
- The US quickly defeated Spain and **acquired the Philippines and Guam** (both in the Pacific) and **Puerto Rico** (in the Caribbean) as a result of the war.
- Officially, Cuba became independent, but in reality the **US took control over Cuban affairs**.
- The United States changed from being a nation without colonies to one that controlled an **overseas empire**.

Colonial Possessions of the US



Cuba

For a time, the US took control over Cuba. It helped Cuba to build itself up and to form a new government. In 1902, the US, acting according to the principles of the Teller Resolution, withdrew its troops from Cuba.

But the **US continued to exert strong influence over Cuba**. It pressured Cuba to accept the **Platt Amendment**. This **allowed the US to decide Cuba's foreign policy**. It also **permitted the US to use troops to restore order and to protect American life and property** if the need should arise. **Four times** over the next 30 years, US troops were sent to Cuba. Many **Cubans resented the Platt Amendment** and wanted to see an end to American involvement in Cuban affairs.

The Imperialist Problem

Is the US' possession of colonies a betrayal of democratic principles? Why or why not?

Puerto Rico



What should be the future status of Puerto Rico?

Commonwealth:
Puerto Rico has been a US Commonwealth for 100 years, and should continue in that position. Puerto Ricans are American citizens, free to move anywhere in the US that they wish. In Puerto Rico they pay no federal tax,

Statehood:
If Puerto Rico becomes a state, its people will be able to vote in US elections, will be represented in Congress, and will receive more federal aid and other social services. However, Puerto Ricans will have to pay federal

Independence;
Puerto Ricans identify strongly with their latin American culture.